



County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Social Services

Bryce Yokomizo
Director

July 31, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: POSSIBLE MOTION RE: VEHICLE
REPAIR FOR CalWORKs - STATUS REPORT**

On June 23, 2003, your Board approved a motion for our Department to explore with the Community Colleges, the Regional Occupational Centers, Community Adult Schools as well as the Los Angeles County Office of Education and the Los Angeles Unified School District, the potential for their auto mechanic students to perform repairs for CalWORKs participants and report our findings and recommendations in 60 days.

This is to provide you a status report on the results of our research on the feasibility of having auto mechanic students, who are currently enrolled in auto mechanic training programs, perform repairs on vehicles owned by CalWORKs participants.

Specifically, we contacted Community Colleges, Regional Occupational Programs and Community Adult Schools to inquire about the potential utilization of this resource. The following is a summary of our findings:

☐ **Educational providers do not provide totally free car repairs.**

Labor is free, however, most programs require that the car parts be paid by the car owner.

Pasadena City College for example, requires the car owner to sign an agreement indicating the owner will pay for the parts within a specified time frame or the school keeps the car.

□ **Programs have numerous factors that dictate how/when a car will be repaired.**

Schools normally have a waiting list for car repairs. Once on the list, schools then decide which vehicles to work on first, based on:

- The car repair problem;
- The number of students in the class; and
- The level of expertise attained by the students.

We have learned that it can take months before cars can be repaired.

Hacienda La Puente Adult School provided the following example:

A car they received had a "cracked engine head." The school could not work on the car until a student reached the level of skill and knowledge necessary to perform the repairs for such a complicated job. It took four months for one of the students to acquire the skills to become proficient enough to do the repair work.

□ **Some schools only work on a limited number of cars per semester.**

The number of cars to be repaired is based on a preset curriculum for the school year.

Recommendation

Based on our initial research, we have learned that school programs do not offer totally free car repairs. Although programs may require car parts to be paid, these offer a no labor cost alternative provided by the students under the supervision of the instructors. The drawback to these programs is that the scale of repairs may be limited to a few cars and the length of time for repairs may prove to be a barrier to utilizing the program.

Our research was limited due to the fact that many schools are not open. However, as car repair programs offer a viable option for our participants, we will conduct a survey of additional schools and community colleges around the county, to further explore the availability of other programs, when the classes resume in late August and September.

We will provide you with a summary of our findings by the end of September.

BY: mor

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors